

THE "PLATTSBURG IDEA" PRODUCING A CITIZEN ARMY



Citizen cavalry at the Monterey, Cal., camp.

Photo by International Film Service.



A battery of Pennsylvania artillery at Tobyhanna, Pa. The field artillery training camp under regular army auspices. This year, owing to shortage of officers, this camp has been combined with Plattsburg.

Gen. Leonard Wood, commander of the Eastern Department, United States army, is one of the most active advocates of preparedness. THE SUN addressed to him a letter asking his views as to the state of the preparations of this country for defence, the value of the Plattsburg idea, the best manner of extending the work of training reserve officers, the relation of the regular army to the militia and kindred subjects. The answers to these questions may be found in the reply of Gen. Wood and in the accompanying extracts from his public addresses and from his testimony before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.

By Major-Gen. LEONARD WOOD.



Major-Gen. Leonard Wood.

have or ever had for the training of reserve officers. In order that training should be reasonably thorough men who have had no previous military instruction should attend not less than four of these camps and in addition pursue a systematic course of reading and study.

The camps are capable of indefinite expansion. The great embarrassment at the present moment is incident to the shortage of officers and of troops to provide the necessary model units representing the different arms of the service. Nevertheless units will be improvised and a thorough course of instruction given at this year's camps.

The country is exceedingly short of trained officers. The regular army has not enough officers at the present to discharge the duties now incumbent upon it. A recent act of Congress will meet in part the need for additional officers. The militia is without sufficient officers to meet its needs when raised to war strength. There is no reserve worthy of name of trained officers in our population.

There is in the population a large number of men who have had some kind of military instruction at the various military colleges and schools and at those institutions where military training is a part of the curriculum. There are a few men who have had service as officers in the regular army, some who have passed through the Guard and a small number who have qualified for commissions through examinations, but it can be stated as a general proposition that very few of these men have had that thorough basic training, that practical experience in camp and in

the command of men which fits them intelligently and efficiently to discharge the duties of an officer. Much less has it fitted them to act as instructors of men under conditions where moderate success can only be attained by those who have had large experience in training and organization.

It is particularly desirable that as large a number as possible of carefully selected men who have had sufficient military training in college or in school, or in the United States military training camps, such as Plattsburg and others, should be commissioned for a year in the regular army in the various staff corps and arms of service in order that they may become familiar with administrative and supply work of the army, as well as secure invaluable experience in the actual command of men.

From the men who have passed through military courses in college or

Rapid Spread of Movement Inaugurated by Gen. Wood Will Result in Training of Nearly 30,000 Men This Summer—Big Problem of Officering a Future Volunteer Army Being Met

military school and served at a sufficient number of training camps alone we should be able to get most of our Lieutenants for the reserve corps and some Captains. From the men who have had the year's service in the army, in addition to their service in college and in the training camps, we should be able to secure nearly all of our Captains and Majors. (It is not proposed to issue commissions in the reserve above the grade of Major.)

We have at schools and colleges at which military instruction is a part of the curriculum nearly forty thousand students. As many of these are not should be assembled in training camps each summer until they have completed the prescribed number of camps. Some of those from the military colleges of the better type will probably not require more than one camp of instruction; others will require several in addition to correspondence work and study.

In addition we shall have established, under present legislation, officers' training corps units in as many universities and colleges as possible. It is proposed that men taking these have a course of two years under an officer of the army and, in addition, attend the prescribed number of camps. From all these sources it should be easily possible to have in camp each year not less than fifteen thousand men with the mental and physical qualifications which would fit them to be officers.

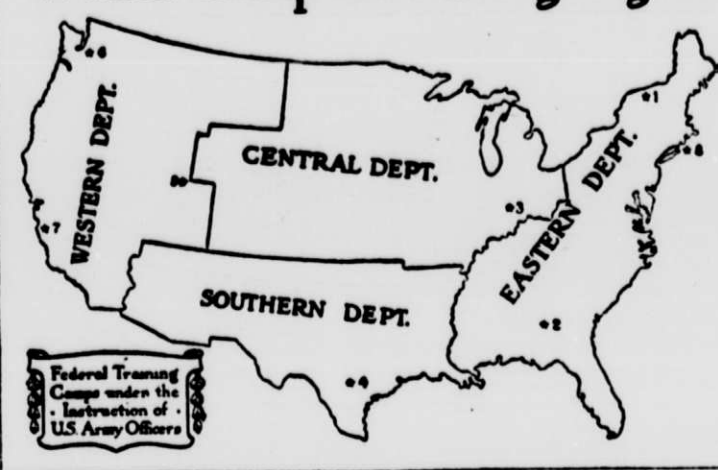
It is not proposed to limit these training camps to graduates of universities and high schools alone, but to accept all men who have the absolutely necessary minimum educational requirements to take up the officers' training course. It is particularly desirable to avoid anything which looks like class distinction in camp.

We want a man of sound mind and sound body with enough education to meet the absolutely necessary requirements. The men who go to the summer training camps now are men many of whom have left college and are established in business or in their professions. These men are, as it were, taking a post-graduate course, and they, like the others, after the necessary number of camps and prescribed examinations which will be, it is expected, largely of a practical character, will furnish a large number of men for our reserve corps of officers. It is vitally important that this reserve corps be built up in the minimum time. We should need these reserve officers badly in the case of any emergency.

It is most important to impress the people with the fact that some things you can't buy. One of them is time; that is needed in the organization, preparation and manufacture of the equipment and munitions, the training of men. The training of men and officers requires time—a good deal of it, and all the money on earth can't purchase time.

"In time of peace prepare for war," was the advice of Washington, and it is sound today as when given. We require not only material organization, but a moral organization which will bring home to each and every one

Which Camp are YOU going to?



Location of "Plattsburg" camps.

There are seventeen individual camps held at eight places, as designated by the numbers on the map:

- EASTERN DEPARTMENT—1—Plattsburg, N. Y., five camps, June 3 to October 5. Junior Division Camp, for recruits from 18 to 21 years old, July 5 to August 8. 8—Fort Terry, Plum Island, N. Y., opposite New London in Long Island Sound, Boys' Camp for recruits from 15 to 18 years old, July 6 to August 10. 2—Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., three camps, May 3 to August 8.
- CENTRAL DEPARTMENT—3—Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind., three camps, July 5 to October 5.
- SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT—4—Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Tex., one camp, June 12 to July 8.
- WESTERN DEPARTMENT—5—Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah, one camp, August 21 to September 16. 6—American Lake, Washington State, one camp, August 14 to September 9. 7—Monterey, Cal., one camp, July 10 to August 5.

of us an appreciation of our obligation to the nation in times of trouble as well as in fair weather, in war as well as in peace; an appreciation of the fact that with the opportunities and privileges of citizenship go hand in hand its obligations and responsibilities within the limits of our physical and mental abilities. We must share and share alike so far as possible the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Equality of opportunity and equality of responsibility are the basic principles on which democracy stands.

The volunteer spirit is superb, but a volunteer system leaves too much to chance. I trust that the training in the military training camps will

be only the forerunner of a general system which will be conducted on lines similar to those of the Australian or the Swiss system, a system under which our people may be prepared under conditions in accord with our ideals to perform their full duties as citizens in war as in peace. Such a system will be the strongest insurance against war and a powerful influence for peace. This kind of training will give us better men physically, morally and industrially because of the discipline, training, habits of promptness and thoroughness, with greater respect of authority, the rights of others, and tend to make America what she must be, a real melting pot. It will tend to national solidarity.

GEN. WOOD'S SPOKEN VIEWS ON BEST DEFENCE POLICY

MAJ-GEN. LEONARD WOOD, commander of the Department of the East of the United States army, is regarded as the founder of the movement for training citizens in military

which Gen. Wood took an active part, and finally the holding of encampments for the training of citizens in the various parts of the country, the camps being under the supervision of the commanders of the army departments.

The public addresses of Gen. Wood and his testimony before the Committee on Military Affairs of the United States Senate are filled with appeals for the military education of the citizenry as well as for the increase in the army and for the making ready of the nation to meet any emergency. Here are some of his views on the national defence:

On Universal Service.

"If the proposition of universal military training is presented to a body of men, as it was a few nights ago to a thousand bankers in New York, and the statement is made that with manhood suffrage goes hand in hand manhood obligation or service, and that this is the very foundation on which a democracy rests, the soundness of the proposition is generally recognized. There is no logical

method of ducking, sidestepping or dodging it.

"Whether men like it or not they realize that the principle is sound. They recognize that man cannot exercise the suffrage as a right and assume that he has the privilege of deciding as to whether or not he will render service in time of necessity.

"This general principle has never been fully recognized in this country and we have with great cost and at times with humiliation to ourselves, but always with great and unnecessary cost in life and treasure, adhered to the volunteer system, with its evils in the form of a bounty and the purchase of substitutes. There has been no equality of service. The rich when drafted have been able to buy the poor to take their places.

"The result has been a debauchery of public morals on the subject of each and every man's obligation to service in time of war. It may not be service with arms in hand; it may be service on the lines of communication, in the supply department, as a medical officer serving with the Red Cross; but it means service somewhere, for every able bodied man who is within the period of obligation—that is to say, every man who is within the age limit during which service may be rendered and who is physically fit.

"We have never in our entire history waged war with a first class

Sound, not far from Greenport, L. I. It is accessible from New London, Conn. by boat and can also be reached by proceeding by rail to Greenport and then taking a boat. The camp is located on the Government reservation at Fort Terry, and Plum Island affords abundant space on which the young soldier may acquire seasoning, although as it is not more than five miles long and two in width it is not adapted for long hikes.

It offers a varied terrain, being some level spaces, some open area and several strips of woods. It will do very well, as is observed by Capt. C. E. Kilbourne of the General Staff, who has issued a circular describing it, for instruction in the minor tactics, owing to the fact that only the sea footed can march further than five miles, it is thought there will be no temptation for the youthful students of the military game to overstrain themselves.

In every respect except the length of hikes and such details the Plum Island camp is a replica of the Plattsburg camp. The Government furnishes arms, ordnance, tents, blankets, pillows, mattresses, exercise ponies and equipment, including mess kits. The total cost for each boy is about \$30. The uniform and such equipment costs \$15, exclusive of shoes. The cost of board, camp expenses, and ammunition expended is covered by the \$22.50 which each young soldier deposits with the Government. The cost of transportation varies of course with each attendant.

Each boy must have two pairs of substantial marching shoes, a pair of light shoes or sneakers, socks, underwear, two pairs of draw cotton breeches, a pair of leggings, two olive drab shirts, a cotton army blouse, a campaign hat with cord, bathing trunks, toilet articles and other necessities. A study of the requirements for the men at Plattsburg may give other hints as to what is needed.

The young recruit will find himself well looked after, for his instructors will be officers of the regular army, and each company will have attached to it one or more sergeants. The purpose of this camp is to give to each boy as much of fundamental military education as can be imparted in the five weeks assigned.

In coast artillery work the boys will have instruction in the serving of guns and mortars varying in calibre from three to twelve inches. The position finding service will include the use of range finders, plotting boards, and the correction devices, meteorological instruments and various devices for the control of artillery fire.

The infantry training will include the school of the soldier and battalion, and perhaps of the regiment in case order, involving ceremonies and extended order as well. Minor tactics and combat exercises of the motor units will be included. There will be small arms practice, including that at gallery and range.

The elective training includes instruction in the use of gas engine, radiotelegraphy, care and operation of searchlights, advanced courses in the use and adjustment of the aerial apparatus, the principles of submarine mining, care and use of high explosives, road and position sketching, and the use of the Weldon range finder. There will also be lectures on the care of the camp of instruction and by those visiting it.

BOYS TO GET REAL WORK AT FORT TERRY CAMP

THEY of the younger generation, all khaki clad, will gather next month at Fort Terry, Plum Island, N. Y., where under the discipline of an army officer they will undergo the rigors of military life. Fort Terry is included in the jurisdiction of the Eastern Department, and the boys' camp there, which is a juvenile Plattsburg, will be in charge of Col. Andrew Hero.

Twelve hundred of them, all of whom are past their fifteenth birthday, and none older than 18, are included in this enrollment. Older boys will be welcomed in the junior division at Plattsburg. Most of the attending cadets are pupils of the well known private schools of New York and the New England States, although democracy is to have full sway, and many of them will be public school boys whose way has been paid by public spirited citizens. Several well known men, among them H. B. Bishop of Mount Kisco and David M. Goodrich of this city, have contributed enough to provide for the uniforms and the maintenance of fifty boys each.

The camp will be composed of sturdy lads who have passed a rigid physical test and are in good condition to stand

the hard drill and the marching. Among the young soldiers are Eric Elliker, Jasper Morgan, Howard Elliott, Jr., Matthew C. Fleming, Jr., and Edward Laylor de Forest, Jr.

The Fort Terry training camp had its origin in the suggestion of Dr. Samuel Smith Drury, head master of St. Paul's School at Concord, N. H. St. Paul's has among its alumni many men who have taken an active part in the national life. It was at first intended to have a summer camp somewhere in its vicinity, but as the movement grew it was considered best to have a larger encampment under direct Federal control. An executive committee organized at the suggestion of Dr. Drury had a meeting at the University Club in this city, at which Gen. Leonard Wood, commander of the Eastern Department of the United States army, presided. The result was the formation of the military training camp for boys, which is managed by an executive committee of which the chairman is T. Douglas Robinson. The members are Dr. C. Ward Chapman, J. H. Prentice, J. G. Milburn, Jr., Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., J. J. Harson Rhodes and Frederick Wallace. The New York office is at 475 Fifth avenue, Telephone Vanderbilt 4789.

The camp begins on July 6 and continues until August 10 inclusive. It is held at a time of year which makes exercises in the open agreeable, and as Plum Island is swept by the cool breath of old ocean the boys who surrender their vacation, or part of it, in this military drill will find many compensations.

Plum Island is in Long Island



Indiana Mounted Artillery at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, where three "Plattsburg" camps are scheduled.



Plattsburg men at the June camp on their first hike in light marching order.

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